



Año Nuevo State Park

Año Nuevo State Reserve

Butano State Park

General Plan Newsletter #1

August 2003



Año Nuevo State Park

The Planning process will define how we can best preserve and enjoy all three parks' unique values and resources.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has begun an 18-month planning process to develop a long-range general plan for Año Nuevo State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve, and Butano State Park. General plans are broad policy documents that direct park management and future development. Three general plans will be prepared simultaneously to:

- Identify significant natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational values and resources
- Determine land use, park development, and visitor activities that are appropriate and compatible with the park and surrounding areas
- Establish guidelines for operations; protection, preservation, and interpretation of resources; and development of facilities
- Determine the significant environmental effects of land uses and visitor activities and possible mitigations

Attend the Planning Workshop!

Please join us in planning the future of Año Nuevo State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve and Butano State Park. Our first workshop will be held:

August 26 7-9:30 p.m.
La Honda – Pescadero
School District Office
620 North Street
Pescadero, CA

The **Workshop Agenda** includes:

- Orientation to the planning process
- Review of *Año Nuevo State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve, and Butano State Park General Plan Scope*
- Public comment on the Parks planning issues and concerns

Due to the widespread public interest in the three parks and Big Basin Redwoods State Park, there will be many opportunities for public input in the planning process. At this first workshop, we need your help in identifying major issues and concerns, such as: what recreation opportunities are desired; what facilities are needed; what lands require special protection; and which natural, historical, and cultural values should be enhanced and interpreted.

Three Parks Summary

Año Nuevo State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve, and Butano State Park are located in a relatively undeveloped portion of San Mateo County's coast, although over seven million people live within a one-hour drive of the three parks. The three parks, along with adjacent Big Basin Redwoods State Park, are contained by several watersheds.



Marbled Murrelet

Natural Resources

A wide diversity of plant communities, including old growth redwood forest, freshwater marsh, red alder riparian forest, oak woodlands, knobcone pine forest, coastal plain, shrubs, grasslands and marine environs can all be found within the three parks. Their perennial streams support trout and salmon. Elephant seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals populate the beaches and offshore islands. Año Nuevo State Reserve is the site of the largest mainland breeding colony in the world for the northern elephant seal and is host to thousands of visitors during the winter season.



Elephant Seals



Cascade Ranch Horse Barn

Cultural Resources

The parks are also rich in cultural resources including a variety of archaeological sites, historic structures and landscapes. Ohlone Indian villages were once occupied on this site. Today, the region remains much as Don Sebastian Vizcaino saw it from his passing ship on January 3, 1603, when his chaplain gave the point its name, Punta Del Año Nuevo. In the Mexican period, Año Nuevo served as an outpost of Mission Santa Cruz and later became a rancho owned by Don Jose Castro, general and hero of the Mexican War. Later in the century, the land was acquired by the Steele brothers who operated a successful dairy business for some 80 years. Many buildings remain from that era, including an historic barn which is now the Reserve's Visitor Center.

The Resource Inventory

In order to guide general plan decisions and proposals to preserve, interpret, manage, and develop Año Nuevo's resources, we must first prepare an adequate inventory of the park's natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. Accordingly, State Park planning staff is developing a *Resource Inventory* for all three parks. Recognizing that an inventory of such a large and diverse area is never finished, we envision this inventory to be a dynamic "work-in-progress" that will be updated with new

information during and beyond this general planning process.

See Web site for General Park Information

To review the Año Nuevo State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve, and Butano State Park information, access these Web sites.

Año Nuevo State Park at:

http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=22264

Año Nuevo State Reserve at:

http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=523

Butano State Park at :

http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=536

Presenting comments at the Workshop

Workshop #1 will be dedicated to presenting the *Scope of the General Plan* and reviewing the initial *Resources Inventory*. If you plan on speaking, please register at the workshop reception table when you arrive. To ensure that there is enough time for all ideas to be expressed we encourage organizations to select a single spokesperson. The Department's planning staff will also present information on the progress of the general plan for Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

State Parks Mission Statement

The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



We want to hear from you!

If you are not currently on our mailing list, and would like to receive the newsletter and notice about future workshops, or if you wish to send written comments, please contact us at either address below:

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
Robin Ettinger, Northern Service Center
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Telephone: (916) 445-8905

Terry Lee, ASLA, Central Service Center
21 Lower Ragsdale Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Telephone: (831) 657-6349

The Public Input Process

- ✓ **Workshop #1 (August 26, 2003): Orientation, Review Scope of the General Plan, Initial Resource Inventory and your Issues and Concerns**
- Workshop #2: Present and Discuss Alternatives
- Preliminary Planning Document Ready for Public Review
- CEQA Public Review/Comment on Preliminary Planning Document
- State Park Commission considers approving Preliminary Plan as Final Document

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- Orientation to planning goals and process
- Review of *Año Nuevo State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve, and Butano State Park* General Plan Scope.

Also, the next day - please join us in planning the future of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Our second workshop will be held:

August 27 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Boulder Creek Elementary School
400 W. Lomond St.
Boulder Creek, CA

In this “Hands-On” Workshop you will work with others to help focus planning options for resolving major park issues

If you wish to send written comments, please contact us at this address:
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, Terry Lee, ASLA, Landscape Architect
Central Service Center, 21 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Monterey CA 93940 (831) 657-6349
For park information, please call (831) 338-8860.

***Año Nuevo State Park, Año Nuevo State Reserve,
and Butano State Park
General Plan***



***21 Lower Ragsdale Drive
Monterey, CA 93940***



**Come to the August 26
"Scoping" Meeting!**

